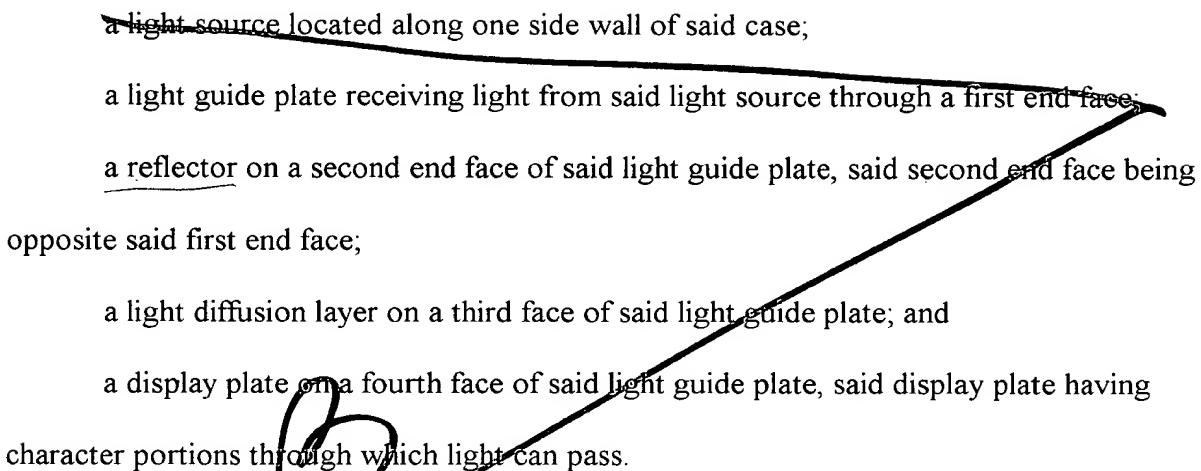


~~a light source located along one side wall of said case;~~
~~a light guide plate receiving light from said light source through a first end face;~~
~~a reflector on a second end face of said light guide plate, said second end face being~~
~~opposite said first end face;~~
~~a light diffusion layer on a third face of said light guide plate; and~~
~~a display plate on a fourth face of said light guide plate, said display plate having~~
~~character portions through which light can pass.~~

Fig. 9

18. (New) The illumination apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
~~a transparent cover sheet covering said display plate, said transparent cover sheet being bonded to said case to provide a seal.~~

John B. K.
19. (New) An illumination apparatus comprising:
~~a case;~~
~~a light source located along one side wall of said case; and~~
~~a light guide plate receiving light from said light source through a first face, said light~~
~~guide plate having character portions with desired shapes, said character portions being~~
~~formed by at least one of concave portions or convex portions, said character portions being~~
~~provided on a back surface of said light guide plate.~~

20. (New) The illumination apparatus of claim 19, further comprising:
~~a transparent cover sheet covering said light guide plate, said protective transparent~~
~~cover sheet being bonded to said case to provide a seal.~~